if any, that may be passed by the court. Union Carbide Corporation has filed its reply to the plaint. Some interlocutory applications by both the parties are scheduled to be heard at the next hearing.

Government is making every possible effort to have the case heard expeditiously. It is not, however, possible to indicate the time that may be taken in the disposal and settlement of the case.

**Panel to examine the quality and prices of coal**

*179. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a Panel to examine the quality and the prices of the coal;

(b) if so, what are the names and number of members of the panel;

(c) what are the details regarding the terms and reference in this regard; and

(d) by when the Panel is likely to submit its report to Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The names of the Members of the proposed Sub-Committee on Coal are:

(1) Shri Damodar Pandey, M.P.—Chairman

(2) Shri Sarfaraz Ahmed, M.P.

(3) Shri Shivendra Bahadur Singh, M.P.

(4) Shri Anil Basu, M.P.

(5) Dr. Prabhat Kumar Misra, M.P.

(6) Shri Shankar Dayal Singh, M.P.

(7) Shri Chaturanan Mishra, M. P.

(c) and (d) The Sub-Committee will submit its report as early as possible. The Sub-Committee will examine the question of improving the quality and reducing cost of production by more efficient working.

**Appointment of wholetime Chief Electoral Officers**

*180. SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission has suggested appointment of wholetime Chief Electoral Officers;

(b) whether it has also been suggested to issue guidelines under Election Law to aid the Commission and to remove the existing ambiguity in the application of certain Sections;

(c) if so, what are the suggestions of the Election Commission in this regard; and

(d) whether Government have implemented these suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Election Commission has suggested that in view of the tremendous increase in the work relating to the up-to-date maintenance of the electoral rolls and the conduct of the elections, the Chief Electoral Officer of the State should be a wholetime officer preferably of the rank of Chief Secretary. The Election Commission has also suggested that to reduce the scope for exercise of discretion, the relevant Acts in regard to the conduct of elections may contain clear guidelines.

(d) Not yet, Sir.